National Committee on development of backward areas

527. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas (NCDBA) headed by Shri B. Sivaraman, was set up to review the working of various incentives for the development of backward areas in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the further developments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Pending final decisions on the recommendations of NCDBA, the industrially backward areas were categorised into 3 categories, viz. A, B & C and made eligible for graded rates of Central Investment Subsidy with effect from 1-4-83. Subsequently an Inter-Ministrial Committee was constituted to review and revise the existing Central Incentives Schemes for industrialisation of backward areas/'No Industry Districts'. The decision on the recommendations of the Committee has not yet been taken by the Government.

IRDP priority for energy

528. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) wheher Government are aware that a study juointly sponsored by FAO, EEG and World Bank has revealed that the Integrated Rural Development Programmes (IRDP) in South Asian countries currently in vogue with their primary focus on agriculture, paid 'little regard' to energy; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is conscious of the need for an integrated approach towards implementation of programmes of Energy and Rural Development in the country. The nodal departments of the Government dealing with Non-Conventional Energy Sources and Rural Development are interacting to further strengthen the linkages between the programmes of Rural Development and Energy.

Post Offices in the Birbhum District

529. DR. R. K. PODDAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of post offices opened in the Birbhum District during 1987-88;

(b) what are the names of those post offices alongwith their locations; and

(c) what is the number of post offices which are to be opened during the year 1987-88 and what are their locations?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No post offices have been opened in Birbhum district so far during 1987-88.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Three post offices are proposed to be opened in Birbhum district during the year, one each at the following villages:

Gerala, Uttar Bangram and Jalkrishanpur.

Oil Exploration in Kerala

530. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: